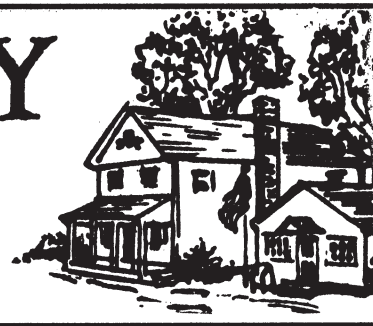




MONTEREY NEWS

August 2005
VOLUME XXXV · Number 8



The Town

Police Department

In his July reports to the Select Board, Police Chief Gareth Backhaus listed the following items: two motor vehicle accidents, a fireworks complaint, a tree with downed wires on Sandisfield Road in mid-July, two abandoned 911 calls, assistance to New Marlborough with a domestic call, a local domestic call, an intruder harassing a resident on Foxhill Road, and the downing of many trees and wires during the strong storm of Friday, July 22.

After Marty Clark resigned as Dog Officer, Backhaus consulted with Tri-Town Health Inspector Peter Kolodziej, who advised him that the Dog Officer for Tri-Town Health may be available as Monterey's officer if other nearby towns are interested in sharing the services. Kolodziej recommended that the Select Board pursue this with a letter of intent if it wishes to hire his suggested replacement for Clark. In the meantime, Bob Annelli was appointed as Inspector of Animals.

Ray Tryon told the Select Board that having a police officer directing traffic

in the town center might be a liability. Backhaus observed that a police presence in the main roadway directing multiple cars at the same time can do more harm than good, particularly to the officer himself. Backhaus emphasized that since the main safety objective is to slow traffic coming into the center of town, the Police Department is evaluating the effectiveness of its activities in that regard.

After spending several weekend mornings in the center of town selling tickets to the Annual Firemen's Steak Roast, Tryon said he observed that traffic flow



Joe Baker

FWMH (Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House) members gather at the entrance to the future Monterey Community Center on New Marlborough Road (l to r): Gige O'Connell, Shirley Olds, Susan Sellow, Joe Baker, Lew Scheffey, Cynthia Weber, Jim Edelman, Evelyn Valianos, Gerry Shapiro. (See story on p. 7.)

cleared up after the Coffee Club dispersed and freed up parking spots.

An additional crosswalk may be placed in the center of town from the church to the library. Crosswalk placement can be problematic due to rules governing where a crosswalk can begin and end (for example, not in a parking lot). The Select Board will discuss the placement and design of a second crosswalk. Select Board member Jon Sylbert inquired how an additional crosswalk would affect town liabilities and penalties for jaywalkers.

Fire Department

After Select Board chair Michèle Miller advised boards, commissions, committees, and town officers of the necessity to revise town bylaws, Fire Chief Ray Tryon quickly listed a number of changes. He urged that regulation of the entire alarm system be revisited and reminded the Select Board that Monterey should enforce the 911 emergency numbering system. Every household in town has an assigned number, and he emphasized that each residence must present that number at the end of its driveway.

Town Accountant Barbara Gauthier reported that the Fire Department incurred a bill for \$15,633.73 for repair of the fire truck purchased in 1996. She will pay the bill out of the department's budget, knowing that the department will run out of money before the end of the fiscal year. Tryon told the Select Board that payments

to firefighter personnel exceeded the budget by \$3,000. It was suggested that the Finance Committee be asked to approve a reserve fund for the Fire Department.

Operations

Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reported that the only proposal for services at the Transfer Station was presented by Master Garbologist. Thus, that company will continue its services, although at a higher price. And if the state raises the tipping fee—the cost for dumping town garbage in the Master Garbologist's facilities—then the fee will be higher.

Forbes reported that the cost of diesel fuel increased from \$1.47 to \$2.21 per gallon in the last year. The comparable increase for gasoline was from \$1.62 to \$2.06 per gallon.

Sylbert asked about disposal of the cans of batteries and the blue oil barrels. Batteries can be placed in the compactor, but rechargeable ones must be picked out for recycling.

Forbes was asked how to determine if a road failure is the result of incorrect design or faulty implementation.

Forbes is working on a job description in preparation for a new employee.

On July 11 at 11:00 a.m., Forbes opened bids for the paving of Gould Road, won by LB Corporation for \$50,620.

Dick Tryon complained about what he believes is the excess amount of time the town crew takes off for coffee breaks. Select Board member Michael Storch disagreed, noting that Forbes often brings coffee to this crew.

The Select Board went on its oft-postponed tour of town roads with Forbes on July 24. Upon their return, Storch praised the work done on paving Gould Road.

Building Issues

In pointing out that all camps must have annual inspections, Building Inspector Don Torrico noted that Keswick has an annual maintenance schedule that keeps the camp in compliance. The other two town camps, Half Moon and Seven Stones (formerly Deerfield), have not scheduled annual inspections, and thus are not in compliance. Although the camping season is almost half over, Tri-Town Health Inspector Peter Kolodziej recommended that Torrico inspect Half Moon and Seven Stones. In the future, camps must abide by the regulation that requires camps to schedule inspections by both the Board of Health and the Building Inspector before a certificate of inspection can be issued. After Torrico reported that it takes about ten hours to inspect a camp, the Select Board discussed and then approved an increase in the fee for camp inspections to \$300.

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Miller asked Torrico if environmental standards should be included in zoning regulations when bylaw changes are made. The question was prompted by the problems caused when a homeowner installed a driveway flush against a neighbor's stonewall, which exposed the roots of old maple trees. When apprised of the situation, Planning Board chair Maggie Leonard agreed that rules for common driveways and work flush on a property line need to be developed. Torrico said he would provide a copy of Lee's bylaws as an example of how to deal with this issue.

It was noted that the storage containers on the property under construction on Main Road across from the entrance to Stevens Lake are considered temporary structures and thus require permits under provisions of the state building code.

Planning Board

At the July 11 Select Board meeting, Maggie Leonard announced that the Planning Board had voted unanimously that Rick Mielke fill its vacant seat. Although the Planning Board followed the appropriate due process for soliciting new members, the Select Board believed the process had not been broad enough and requested that more candidates be interviewed.

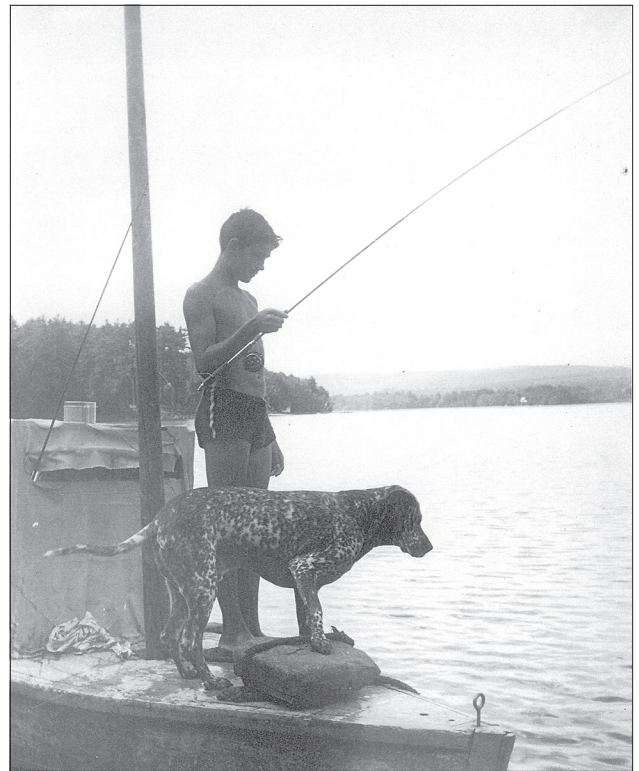
On July 18 the Select Board received a letter from the Planning Board reporting that an additional candidate, Steven Rose,

had been interviewed. Citing the relevant passage from Massachusetts law about appointments to boards, the letter noted that the law states that after advertising the position and interviewing candidates, the town board meets with the Select Board for a roll call vote on the town board's choice, which requires a majority of people present and voting to succeed.

At the July 25 Select Board meeting, Leonard went over these regulations and procedures with the Select Board in preparation for their joint meeting on Thursday, August 11, at 7:00 p.m. All people interested in filling the vacant seat, including those who have not yet come forward, are encouraged to attend that meeting for brief interviews by members of the two boards.

Other Boards

Miller said that the Wilson McLaughlin House Committee was informed by



The Monterey Coffee Club submitted this picture as a challenge to Monterey News readers. Can you identify the young man fishing in Lake Garfield? (Hint: The year is c. 1930, and his "cabin cruiser" was found in a swamp.)

Linda Thorpe that they are violating the open meeting law because they are not informing people of their meetings. Thorpe told the committee that it cannot be reimbursed for postage because it is a 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation. Miller pointed out that the committee is both a 501(c)3 and a town committee and therefore should receive postage for its announcements.

Park Commission chair Leroy Thorpe told the Select Board that even though an estimate on the cost has not yet been received, work on the ballpark light replacement has begun. The Select Board told Thorpe that it had received complaints about excessive weeds growing in the swimming area of the lake. Thorpe said that it had been three years since weeding in that area had occurred.

Title V

The first order of business at the July 18 Select Board session was a meeting with Town Counsel Jerry Scully and members of the Board of Health and Zoning Board of Appeals to discuss the legal appeal

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made by Jean and Michael Germain about their request to install a septic system on his mother's property. Scully emphasized that neither the town nor its boards nor individual board members were being sued. Instead, the Germaines are appealing decisions by the boards and Torrico to reject the applications. The Germaines brought suit in Superior Court in Hampden County, but Scully requested that the case be removed to the Housing Court in Pittsfield.

The issue of the Germain application and appeal concerns Title V's restrictions for new construction. The decade-old state law stipulates that new subsurface absorption systems (SAS to the pros, leach fields to the rest of us) meet certain requirements. Repairs made to subsurface absorption systems installed before Title V's implementation follow the principle of attaining maximum feasible compliance with the law.

At the July 11 Select Board meeting, questions were raised about whether Town Counsel represents the town in court. Dean Amidon said a precedent for additional

legal counsel in court cases was established some time ago. Miller said she believed that ZBA members Amidon and Fred Chapman had been disrespectful of the ZBA chairman by asking who would represent them in court. Storch disagreed with Miller, noting that board members have the right to address the Select Board about their concerns. Amidon reminded the Select Board that questions about legal counsel were raised because the board members were named individually in the Germain appeal, and they wanted information on how they would be represented.

Given the complexity of Title V's requirements, normal human resistance to change, and the differences between rules for new building versus repairs, it is no surprise that disputes arise. Moreover, Monterey's subsurface absorption system's requirements are more stringent than the state's, adding another stumbling block to easy comprehension of who can build what where. Peter Kolodziej suggested that it would be helpful for all boards involved to meet to discuss the various codes. The Select Board designated its

August 15 evening meeting at 7:00 p.m. as the time when the Select Board, ZBA, Board of Health, and the Planning Board will meet to inform themselves of this subject. The Board of Health will facilitate the discussion.

Community Conversations

Elizabeth Goodman and Bill Shein addressed the Select Board about the community conversations that began last summer. Turnout was good, and a core group formed. Shein stated that the process of the conversations is as important as the substance since the meetings give people an opportunity to share their thoughts with their neighbors.

Noting the success that the Planning Board is experiencing with its wide-ranging and productive discussions, Janet Cathcart agreed that community meetings are useful for an informed citizenry. Besides that, she continued, a sense of shared purpose emanates naturally from this process, and the Planning Board hopes to expand its informative discussions to the wider community.

Office Technology

Del Rogers, consultant to Monterey for information technology, is in the process of completing an audit of the town's computers and related equipment. The

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new server has far better security than the older system. However, he told the Select Board that many software disks are missing, presumably the result of being loaned out and not returned. Miller declared an amnesty period so that anyone in possession of any town disk can return it, no questions asked. The case of the missing software demonstrates clearly the need for improved safekeeping.

This and That

Barbara Gauthier requested clarification on the duties and hours of the new Town Secretary, Melissa Noe. The Select Board will change its sick-day policy when the bylaws are reviewed.

Kenn Basler showed the Select Board the pamphlet "Trails of Monterey" that he and Janet Cathcart developed. It has been selling well, and people both in town and from elsewhere are enjoying the trails. Basler said the most frequent question he gets is where the trails begin, hence his inquiry about whether the town would consider putting signage up at each trailhead. Sylbert said that the Monterey Preservation Land Trust had been considering that for some time.

Riccardo Boehm wrote a letter to the Select Board inquiring whether the town would sell some of the Edith Wilson property for 40B housing. Miller said that according to the bequest, the Wilson property cannot be used for housing. The Select Board thanked Boehm for his detailed proposal for housing on that site, but suggested he consider the property behind the firehouse instead.

Linda Thorpe advised the Select Board in executive session on the ethics inquiry and bidding process of the Cemetery Committee.

Brian Puntin, member of both the Planning Board and the Agricultural Commission, asked the Select Board if Monterey has a master plan. Miller loaned Puntin a copy of the Community Development Plan, pointing out that this document comprises about 60% of what a master plan would contain. She noted that the Planning Board is responsible for developing a master plan. When Miller questioned whether it is worth while to take time to develop a master plan, Sylbert elaborated on the need for one as a statement of what the community envisions as its course over the next fifty years. Master plans dictate the philosophy of zoning within a community, a procedure that comes under serious pressure when land values escalate, an acute condition of Monterey's current real estate climate. On a more mercenary note, master plans help towns solicit money from the state.

Dick Tryon challenged Jon Sylbert on his belief, alluded to in the June *Monterey News*, that dirt roads are expensive to maintain. Tryon believes their maintenance is usually cheaper than that of paved roads.

Bill Bell, president of the Monterey Historical Society, reported the donation of coins and jewelry that had been dug up on Gould Farm.

— Laurily K. Epstein

What Was Cooking at the Bidwell House?

Monterey residents interested in colonial food availability and preparation are invited to register now at the Bidwell House Museum for a demonstration of foodways in colonial New England to be held on Saturday, August 27, at 11:00 a.m.. A sampling of a variety of foods from the award-winning Heritage Garden will highlight the event. The fee for this event is \$15.00.

The demonstration and tasting will give special consideration to the origins of early American cookbooks and America's most popular recipes from a cookbook published in 1776.

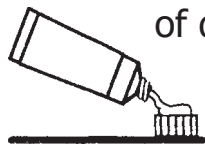
Donald Welsch, a Monterey resident and a chef by avocation, will lead a discussion of the sources of food for the colonists, ingredients available to them, and the tools they used for preparation and preservation of foods, including game and fowl, fruits and vegetables, grain, and dairy products. He will be assisted by area residents Anne Dinan and Joanna Jennings.

Ann Hanchett will provide a map and tour of the historic vegetable garden which includes an array of organically grown produce, teasel, which was used to comb flax, cash tobacco, and edible and medicinal herbs. Call the museum today to reserve your spot: 413-528-6888.



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LakeFest 2005 Schedule of Events
Saturday, August 13
(rain date August 14th)

9:30 a.m.: Fishing Derby for children at the Hatchery Pond on River Road. Prizes given!

2 p.m.: Events at the Beach Begin

- Games for kids - relay races, etc.
- Motor Boat Rides from Amidon Dock
- Sandcastles
- Release of fish from the Hatchery into Lake Garfield

4:30 p.m.: Children's Concert

- David Grover and The Big Bear Band

5:45 p.m.: Potluck

- Hamburgers, hot dogs and drinks provided
- Marshmallow Roast & Campfire

7 p.m.: Music for Everyone

- David Grover and The Big Bear Band

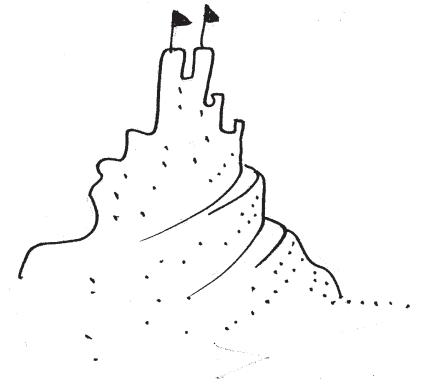
9 p.m.: Fireworks over Brewer Pond from the dam

PLEASE BRING FOOD FOR POTLUCK!

If you want to join in the Potluck dinner, you must bring food items sufficient to serve twice the size of your group. Potluck tickets for your group will be issued in exchange for your food contribution. Consider bringing extra! Bring something special to share. It's part of the fun of LakeFest.

ON SALE AT THE BEACH:

Light Sticks, LakeFest Caps & Posters



Many Thanks to LakeFest 2005 Sponsors

LakeFest 2005 is sponsored by the Town of Monterey with major financial support from the Friends of Lake Garfield and the sale of LakeFest posters. Special thanks goes to businesses and individuals for specifically supporting the fireworks and music by David Grover and the Big Bear Band (information, as of July 23):

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The Transport Family

Special Thanks

•Andrus Power Solutions and Mark Amstead for providing equipment and installation of lights & sound at the beach.

•The Monterey General Store for helping in all aspects of LakeFest, including selling posters with all proceeds to LakeFest.

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Community Center News

When asked, I agreed to be on the Wilson-McLaughlin House Committee, mainly because I had never been on a town committee before and I felt I should learn how “being on a committee” was done. It struck me tonight as I returned home after another long meeting, that it actually isn’t all that different from gardening: lots and lots of exercise (work) to achieve a beautiful, yummy reward, in this case a wonderful space where people of all ages can gather to play chess or Legos, to knit or finger paint, to stop in after school or work to see a neighbor’s art exhibit ... a.k.a. The Monterey Community Center.

We are in the planning stages. We have been encouraged to spend a great deal of time here. We know what we want to plant but we have to learn how, and we are learning (exercising) a lot! We call on experts to help us; most recently Marion Simon generously gave us a campaign development tutorial. Cultivation is the key, she tells us. For weeks, we have been working on what is called our Case Statement. It is what might be called a Mission Statement but is a series of questions with answers designed to bring us clarity.

I’ll leak a bit from ours even though it isn’t finished:

(1) Briefly describe your organization’s purpose, its reason for existence.

“Monterey is a vibrant, close knit community that lacks a public place where residents can gather ... a place to go ... for all ages ... where casual and organized activities can take place, enhancing the social, cultural and creative life of the community.

We have folks on our committee who have been involved in town activities and government for years. They tell stories of all the various attempts over past decades to develop a community center in town. Each time, everyone would be very enthusiastic, a model was even built in one instance, but when it came to town meeting, taxpayers felt they didn’t want to carry the additional tax burden.

What makes this current attempt unique is that the Friends of Wilson McLaughlin House has secured 501(c)(3) status which, along with the leasing of the Wilson House while we complete the restructuring, makes it possible for this project to be funded through grants and a community-wide fundraising campaign. In addition, by restoring the house, we secure the 28+ acres bequeathed to the town by Edith Wilson. A win-win situation, just like a garden. It is rewarding to be working on such an endeavor!

—Susan Sellew



The Sandisfield Arts Center

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ART EXHIBIT: 4:30-6:30

**Travel Sketchbook: Watercolor and Pen & Ink Sketches”
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Reservations/Info: 413-258-4100 or sandisfieldartscenter.org

Farm Day at Bidwell House

If you're accustomed to reading the list of ingredients in the items you pick up at the local grocery store, then you will be interested in Farm Day at the Bidwell House Museum on Saturday, August 20th. Billie Best, Director of Regional Farms and Food Projects, will be the featured speaker at 11:00 a.m.; her topic is "18th Century Farming for 21st Century Health." From Alford, Billie Best is a well-known writer and an engaging speaker.

The United States is the breadbasket of the world and we are justly proud that improved techniques and technology help sustain so many, but we are also suffering from obesity—even our children—and we are finding that food additives may be a detriment to our health. The Bidwell House maintains a colonial garden with produce grown from heirloom seeds.

Bring lawn chairs and a picnic lunch and enjoy our special exhibit of farm implements from the Bidwell collection. Also, from noon to 2:00 p.m., the featured guest will be Linwood Robinson Rhodes, from Williamstown, an expert on old farm, garden and kitchen tools. He will have some of the unique items from his extensive collections and he'll answer your questions.

The special presentations are free and open to the public as the Bidwell House contribution to agricultural education. There will be regular admission for a tour of the Bidwell House to learn more about the challenges the Bidwells confronted as they lived their lives in the Berkshire Hills. For more information, call 413-528-6888.

How's it Made? Returns

If you love art, don't miss *How's it Made?* On September 3rd from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., the Monterey Firehouse Pavilion will be transformed into a completely creative space when area artists will not only show their work, but also demonstrate it and answer your questions about it. The participating artists were chosen for this biannual, one-day juried show based on the quality and diversity of their work. They are:

Karen Allen, knit fabric
Michael & Maureen Banner, jewelry
Frank D'Amato, acrylic
Diane Firtell, mixed media
Josephine Freedman, pottery
Jean Germain, photography and Polaroid transfers
Julio Granda, printing, design
Ellen Grenadier, pottery
Marie-Claude Giroux, papermaking
Pat Hogan, watercolor
Wendy Jensen, basketry
MaryKate Jordan, stitchery
Marlene Marshall, mosaics
Michèle Miller, oils
Peter Murkett, woodworking
June Parker, pastels
Stanley Phillips, oils
Peggy Reeves, photography
Arrie Setiawati, jewelry
Barbara Tryon, quilting
Lois Van Cleef, pastels
Leonard Weber, watercolor

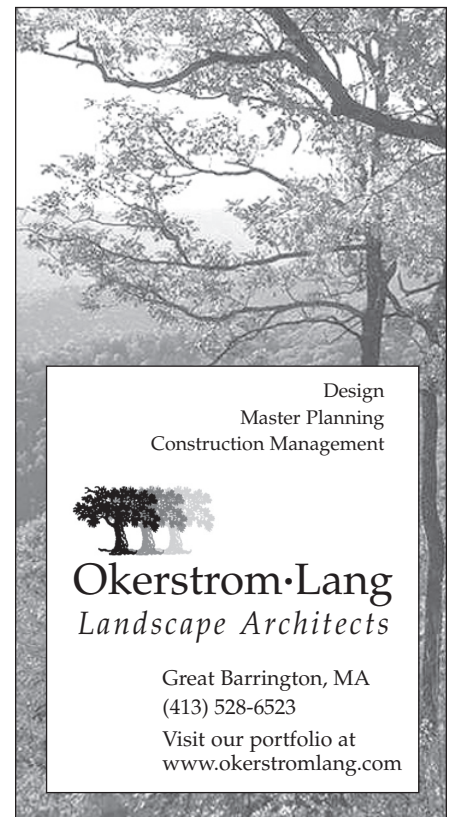
These artists will have their work for sale, and at the bandstand there will be folk music by John Sellew & Tom Ingersoll, bluegrass by Wicker's Creek, and jug band music by the brand new local group

Jug'lar Vein. Local food will be available, and there will be a table where visitors can make their own creations out of clay. Children are especially welcome at this event, which is free for everyone.




Historical Society Walk

The Monterey Historical Society is sponsoring a walk on Saturday, August 20, to begin at 1 p.m. at the parking area of the Fish Hatchery. Bob Rausch will be leading the walk. After a short tour of the Fish Hatchery, we will see some of the evidence of the last glacial period in a "kettle hole." We will be looking at charcoal making sites and talking about charcoal making in the nineteenth century, reviewing some old house foundations and some interesting stonewalls, and rambling for a total walking distance of about one mile. Please wear appropriate shoes and clothing to suit the weather. Refreshments will be served.



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Gould Farm Coins Donated to Historical Society

On July 22, Peter Wyers, a guest at Gould Farm, donated 61 old coins to the Monterey Historical Society. They were mounted in a frame and will be on permanent display for interested persons to see. One of the coins was a large one-cent piece, minted in 1827. The entire display is comprised of 13 silver coins, as well as many pennies—including 45 wheatbacks, one Indian head, and the above-mentioned 1827 rare large cent. Mr. Wyers also included a few pieces of jewelry he found on the farm.

Mr. Wyers has been searching Gould Farm for coins since April 27, 2005. He has spent 150-200 hours searching and has dug about 750-800 plugs (or holes) in the ground, using methods that protect the environment. Altogether, he has found more than 600 modern coins, totaling \$56.00. He will continue to search for old coins and relics, on the farm and in the general community. He expressed his gratitude to staff at Gould Farm for providing him the opportunity to conduct his searches, paying special tribute to Robert Rausch, who has provided his expertise in local history and encouragement. Mr. Wyers says he “loves digging into the past” and hopes to find more coins and artifacts in the next months.

Michael Storch



Robin O'Herin performing at Monterey General Store on July 28.

Monterey General Store August Events

Thursday Music Nights

August 4: Sammy Brown

August 11: Tom Ingersall and John Sellow

August 18: Sue Choquette and Nappy Martin

August 25: Dan Axelrod and Al Perlman, Jazz Guitar Duo from NYC

Music starts at 7:00 p.m. Light dinners (sandwiches, salads, etc.) are served from 6:00-7:30. No cover charge, but donations for the musicians are invited.

Leonard Weber Book Signing

Local artist Leonard Weber has just finished his book *An Artist's View of The Freedom Trail*. We are pleased to carry this book at the store and invite all to meet Leonard on August 13th from 3-6 p.m. for a book signing, cosponsored by Monterey Library.

Ice Cream, Ice Cream, Ice ...

The Ice Cream Window is open! The Monterey General Store has a soft serve ice cream machine: vanilla, chocolate, and for the really daring “a twist of both.” Stop by the store for a taste. The window is open noon to 6 p.m., Mon.-Sat.

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Renewable Energy Funding Awarded to Monterey

Many towns throughout the Berkshires will soon be deciding on a renewable energy project for their community. The Massachusetts Technology Collaborative (MTC) recently informed town select boards about funding their community has earned through the Clean Energy Choices program. Towns receive these funds as a result of their residents' commitment to support clean energy. The money can be used for municipal renewable energy projects.

Great Barrington, Egremont, Williamstown, and Monterey are four of eight towns statewide that will receive a bonus award from the MTC for achieving a milestone of 3 percent of the households selecting clean energy. These towns will earn an additional \$50 for each household enrolled, a significant bonus to use toward the renewable project of their choice. Every new enrollment means additional matching funds from the state to communities for these renewable energy projects.

The Center for Ecological Technology (CET) worked throughout Berkshire County to encourage more than 450 households to sign up for New England GreenStart as a way to build the demand for renewable energy. GreenStart is available through CET and can be paid for on the monthly bill from Massachusetts Electric Company. In addition to earning grants for their communities, GreenStart supporters deduct a portion of their costs from their federal taxes.

Several towns—West Stockbridge, Lenox, Sheffield, and Stockbridge—are very close to the 3 percent milestone, and CET looks forward to working with these and other towns to reach 3 percent participation. To qualify for the bonus award, towns need to have 3 percent enrollment from September 30 through December 31, 2005.

Towns can now begin to plan and implement renewable energy projects. They can select a variety of different ways to use the money, from purchasing educational materials on renewable energy for a library or school, to putting solar electric panels on a municipal building. To receive the funds, towns submit a one-page application to the MTC.

"Electricity is still abstract to most people. The Clean Energy Choice program connects the individual decision to pay for clean energy with new, visible renewable energy projects in each community," said CET's Laura Dubester. "As we become generators of electricity, we keep our energy dollars in the Berkshires, support local installers and help reduce air and water pollution and the associated health and environmental impacts from polluting fossil fuels."

Individuals interested in spearheading a town-wide effort to support renewable energy are encouraged to contact CET. For more information, please call 413-445-4556, ext 17, and ask for Raya Ariella or e-mail her at raya@cetonline.org. For more information about GreenStart, visit: www.cetonline.org and click on the GreenStart logo.

Friends of Lake Garfield Need Help to Steer the Ship

If you care enough about Monterey and Lake Garfield, about community and ecology, it's time for you to step forward and participate. The Friends of Lake Garfield needs new people, new thoughts, new blood to join the steering committee.

FLG monitors and protects the health of the lake. We help control weed profusion, both in the lake and on the shores. We provide the major funding and organization that brings the community together for LakeFest. (This year it's on August 13th.) The current president and vice president of FLG are stepping down after this year; unless some good people step up, FLG and its activities will cease. Including LakeFest.

What can you do now? Call Janet Cathcart, current president, and let her know you're interested in pitching in. Janet's at 528-8217. If you're not already a member of FLG, you can join on our website, LakeGarfield.org. By all means, show up at the next general meeting of

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“What Next for FLG?”

August 27, 9:30 a.m.
at the Firehouse

FLG—9:30 at the Firehouse, August 27th—and bring your neighbors. At that meeting we would like to have names of candidates who would like to act as officers, committee chairpersons, and committee members.

If you’d rather just sit back and watch other people do the work, a warning: next year there just might not be anyone to watch.

— Hy Rosen



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Green Corner Back to School

Do we have a “waste problem” or a “recycling problem” or both? Home and business recycling rates rose from around 10 percent in 1990 to about 35 percent by 2000. Since then recycling rates have stayed about the same—while homes and businesses produce more waste. In 1992, Massachusetts residents produced 2.54 pounds of waste a day. Now, it’s about 3 pounds a day. We can help: reduce, reuse, recycle, and buy recycled products.

Getting ready for the new school year is the second biggest retail season of the year. It’s a wonderful opportunity to carry out our environmental values in our shopping decisions and support our towns, too.

Select products with recycled content and products that are recyclable. Many notebooks, pads, pencils, pens, and folders have recycled content. You recycle at home and maybe at work. Ultimately, the paper, glass, plastic, or metal that you recycle is manufactured into another product. When you purchase products with recycled content, you help ensure that our recyclables have value in the marketplace. The Springfield Materials Resource Facility (MRF) pays a minimum of \$15.67 per ton for the recyclables of many towns in western Massachusetts.



Director of Operations Maynard Forbes reports that some street signs in Monterey are being vandalized. This is one sign of about 8 so far that have been destroyed on Saturday nights. Anyone who knows anything about it is asked to contact the Monterey Police.

The more you recycle, the more money your town receives.

Consider product packaging. Packaging has a short “useful life” and often isn’t recyclable. You get an item home and the packaging comes off and then it’s into the trash. When choosing among products, select the one with the least packaging and/or packaging that is recyclable or made from recycled materials.

Find out more about environmentally responsible products, at www.cetonline.org/Links/links or the Center for New American Dream at www.newdreams.org or call CET: 413-445-4556, ext 14.

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*Did you notice
the young man in the too-long wrinkled jacket
listening to the flute notes
leaping up the hushed dim of space?*

*He had a deformity
and his hair fell over a frown —
he gripped the back of wood chair in front of him
he gripped it all through the Albinoni
until the veins of pain could stand it no more.*

*When the applause gently splattered the air
chairs scraped and coughs echoed through the grey domed cool
he got up, our eyes met briefly and he limped off —
you were holding my hand
which the intelligent Venetian ladies next to you
observed with thin smiles —*

*your white head was thrown back, your dear eyes were closed
still, it seemed, sharing the dream of the flute*

*I think you missed him
but he saw us old and still happy —
we did not know each other's story:
we became part of his pain
and he became part of the Vivaldi, which followed.*

— A. O. Howell

In Stillness

*A wary stillness lingers overhead. Late afternoon. The trees refuse to sway;
so still that you might think they never did. No birds in sight. Perhaps they
only fly when motion welcomes them to join the dance, with swirling leaves
and branches on the bend. The birds know something. Are they calm or
tense? Just now it's quiet. Will a sudden wind erupt, bring storms, or will
the peace persist? The hidden birds are going to wait it out;
they'll fly and sing again after a rest. Experience has taught them they
cannot predict what's next. This stillness will not last, though it could well
return once storms had passed.*

— Ed Schur

Unanswered Questions

*Yes, we are already living in the Matrix
Are we asleep or awake?
What is real, what is fake?
Who are we? Who am I?
Why are we all wandering this Earth?
Truth be told, we're bought and sold
What brave new lands do we discover
Captain, who is driving this ship?
Where is the end of the line?
And when will the time come when the Earth stops spinning?
All life ends and forms a new beginning
I wish to be anywhere but here
But then what would I be doing?
Is our destiny foretold?
Do we make it on our own?
And after we die, where do we go?
Up or down, or stay on ground?
We're all connected in some way
From the slacker to the businessman
We live a different day
There is no path
YOU roll the dice of your life
Why?
I am you
You are them
Don't judge me
Lest ye be judged yourself
And when the movie that is our life ends
Do we eject?
Or rewind?
Is there a sequel?
And who is watching this entertainment?*

— Andrew Shaw

Prodigal Stranger

*Rambling far, on restless visions
we whistle past a caravan
of questions;
Where did we come from,
with everything new in a tiny fist—
and where do we go when ages
fade our brilliance to cinders?*

*Child, coax us back
from the prodigal stranger,
wandering a listless mile.
Remind us to crawl again,
press this delight of grass through our toes—*

*Swing our prayer 'til it cracks the sky,
find where prophets hide out
and experience is everything.
Hold fast as the mystery sinks deeper,
and it's back to you, little one—*

*Weeping soft, lost in the garden I knew,
take me to where life sparkled
and wonders dangle like stars
on branches of the wind.*

There I will remember, and I will find you again.

— M. Hamilton

Notes from the Library

Museum Passes

Did you know you can get passes that will allow you to go to the Bidwell House, Hancock Shaker Village, Clarke Art Institute, Norman Rockwell, and the Berkshire Museum from the Monterey Library? They differ in how many people can go, and some do have date limitations, but please come in and ask about the programs. You check out the passes just as you would a book, and return it as soon after you go as possible so someone else can take advantage of it.

Children's Summer Reading

Our storytellers have come and gone, but we hope all our kids are still reading. It's not too late to sign up and get a reward of ice cream from the General Store for recording the reading that children ages 4 to 12 are doing.

Some of the New Books

Adult Fiction

No Country for Old Men, Cormac McCarthy
Until I Find You, John Irving
Looking for Peyton Place, Barbara Delinsky
Traveller, John Twelve Hawks
The Historian, Elizabeth Kostova
Dance of Death, Douglas Preston

Star Wars Trilogy, George Lucas
Lifeguard, James Patterson
Two Trains Running, Andrew Vachss
Earthly Joys, Phillipa Gregory
What Casanova Told Me, Susan Swan
Summer of Roses, Luanne Rice
Way from Home, Nancy Clark
Adored, Tilly Bagshawe
High Plains Tango, Robert Waller
Lord Byron's Novel, John Crowley
Rage, Jonathan Kellerman

Adult Nonfiction

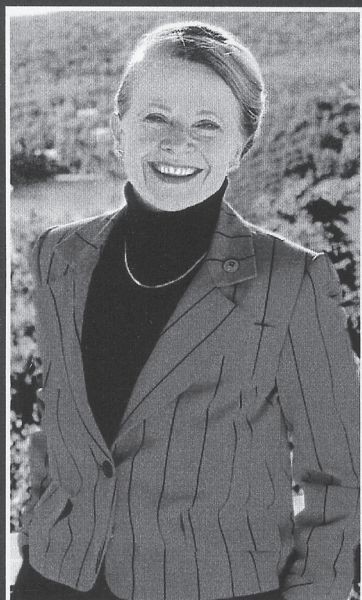
1776, David McCullough
Secret Man: The Story of Watergate's Deep Throat, Bob Woodward
Chain of Command, Caspar Weinberger;
Garbage Land: On the Secret Trail of Trash, Elizabeth Royte
Silicone Eye, George Gilder
100 Great Poems of the 20th Century, Mark Strand
Elements of Murder, John Emsley
Different Universe: Reinventing Physics from the Bottom Down, Robert Laughlin
The Rescue Artist: A True Story of Art, Thieves, and the Hunt for a Missing Masterpiece, Edward Dolnick
Devil's Teeth: A True Story of Obsession and Survival among America's Great White Sharks, Susan Casey
How to Be Idle, Tom Hodgkinson

Down Came the Rain: A Mother's Story of Depression and Recovery, Brooke Shields
Luckiest Man: The Life and Death of Lou Gehrig, Jonathan Eig

Children and Young Adult

Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince, J. K. Rowling
Dr. Drake's Dragonology, Ernest Steer
Egyptology: Search for the Tomb of Osiris: Being the Journal of Emily Sands
The Travels of Benjamin of Tudela, Uri Shulevitz
Don't Get Lost, Pat Hutchins
Stop the Train, Geraldine McCaughrean
We the Kids: Being the Preamble to the Constitution of the United States, David Catrow
Game of Silence, Louise Erdrich
Bears, Ruth Krauss

— Mark Makuc, Library Director



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From the Meetinghouse

Once during Sunday worship last summer, a bird flew into the sanctuary. The window was open only about six inches, as wide as anyone seems able to open those windows, which are old and heavy and swell with the humidity of summer. Nonetheless, this bird found those six inches enough, and it seemed to have some purpose in coming in. It zipped in low and soared suddenly high over the heads of the twenty or so people in the pews to perch up front on the modesty panel that hems in the foremost pew. Facing the congregation now, the bird commanded more attention from its perch than I could ever hope to from the pulpit. The whole congregation, including me, seemed to wait for some word from this bird, perhaps as from Jesus' Sermon on the Mount, "Consider the lilies of the field; consider the birds of the air ..."

And as suddenly as it had joined us, it was off, taking wing from the modesty panel to the window up front by the organ. It slammed hard into the glass. The congregation gasped together. And then there was stillness, from the bird, alive but stunned on the floor, and from the congregation, concerned but still seated in the pews. We are all well trained about proper worship behavior; New England Congregationalists have been characterized as "God's frozen chosen." Just so, we remained in our proper places, but leaning toward the

end of the service of worship as a runner leans toward the tape at the finish line. There seemed a consensus that we would quickly come to the closing hymn and then we would be free to work to free this bird. One calming voice even said as much, that we shouldn't be disturbed. But when the bird took off again, and hit the window again, we agreed that the very reason we were here was to be disturbed.

I remember a song by 10,000 Maniacs, a light rock band in the 90s. "Trouble me," went the lyrics. "Disturb me with all your cares and your worries. Trouble me on the days when you feel spent. Why let your shoulders bend underneath this burden when my back is sturdy and strong? Trouble me." Though it never struck me as a profound song when it was a radio hit, I find that I often have those lyrics in mind as pastor of this church, as I hang around Monterey waiting to be troubled by anyone who might need me. Likewise, I have these lyrics in mind when I wonder at this strange phenomenon of people gathering weekly for worship, such a primitive activity! And why do it? I think to gather strength for the journey of life, and not only each of ours alone, but all of ours together, strength such that, when we come across someone whose shoulders are bent beneath a burden, we might find ourselves sturdy and strong.

I have a good view of the whole congregation from the pulpit, and when we were moved from prayer to action that

Sunday morning last summer, I looked to Steve Snyder without wondering for even a moment who would be best for the job. He rose from his pew, removed his button-down shirt as he walked to the front of the sanctuary, and draped it over the bird like one might do for a child who was cold and in need of another layer of clothing. He walked the bundle in his hands now out to the narthex where he let it out the front door and returned to his pew as we gathered for the pastoral prayer.

There were yet fifteen minutes left in the service of worship, given that now we were in less of a rush. We would wend our way slowly through them, trying to regain a sense of normalcy — saying our prayer, collecting the offering, gathering in the closing circle, singing the final hymn. But the wonder that the bird had brought in to us we could not so easily let go. It seems rare that trouble arises of the sort whose solution only we can provide. We hear of tsunamis and famines and epidemics far away, and our hearts go out to where our hands cannot reach. But every once in a while trouble touches us close and we are blessed to be strong and sturdy, calling out, "Trouble me; trouble us. That's why we're here."

— Elizabeth Goodman

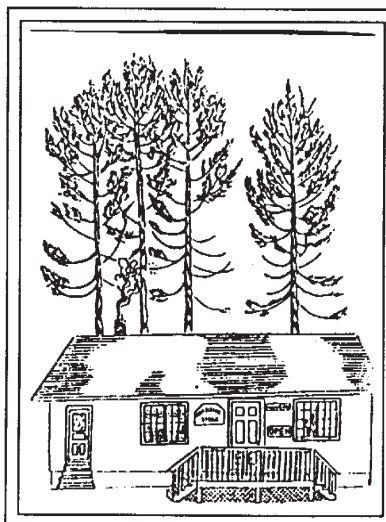
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The Chicken Bucket is Back!

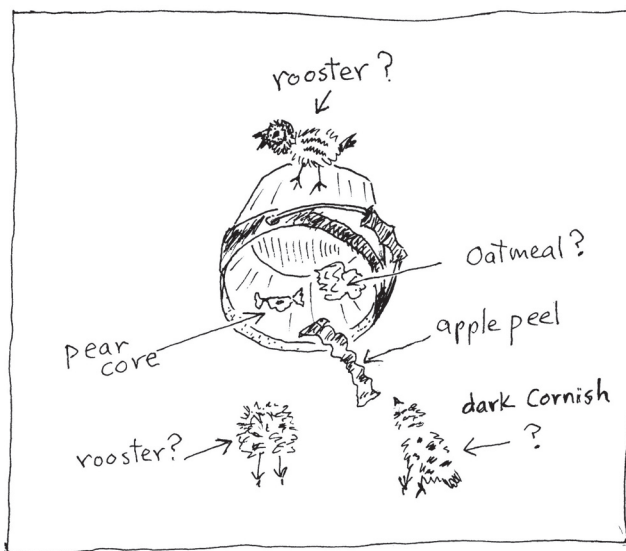
Big news from the chicken house: today the babies discovered they love summer squash, also pieces of pear core and very old oatmeal made from steel-cut oats. What progress. Seems like only yesterday I went out there with the chicken bucket for the first time and all fourteen of them froze. I've seen this before at the birdfeeder when a hawk goes by. All the little birds suddenly become immobile, hoping to blend into their still surroundings so they can look like odd little rocks or hummocks instead of the tasty hawk dinners they really are, or could be.

The chicken bucket is a white thing with a wire bail that has sat on our kitchen counter for about thirty years, ever since we got our first chickens. I think this bucket once held nine pounds of organic peanut butter, which in those days might have been our chief source of protein. All these decades we have sorted our kitchen compost into Chickens Like It or Chickens Don't Like It. The Don't Like It items go into our composting toilet and have consisted mainly of onion skins and citrus peels. Chickens like just about everything else.

So it was a big change for us when a weasel offed our last two hens earlier this year. (What happened? Did they forget to hold still?) Close readers of this column

will recall that I reported at the time the hole in our kitchen when the chicken bucket was retired for lack of chickens.

We tried life without chickens for a few weeks, but it was just no go. I was fair game when a friend called, challenging me to go in with her on an order of day-old chicks. "Just do it!" she said. We put our heads together and picked out twenty-six chicks. You had to get twenty-six so they would keep warm enough in the shipping box. I chose Silver Spangled Hamburgs,



Speckled Sussexes, Dark Cornishes. We each decided to get a Silver Laced Wyandotte rooster because a happy customer had written in to the poultry company saying her rooster of that breed was so docile it would sit on her husband's shoulder. I'd say her husband is pretty sweet himself, but then so are ours.

The new chickies looked like fluffy two-legged chipmunks without tails. Lots

of stripes and nascent dots, some spectacles. We boarded off one corner of the chicken house for them and constructed a "hover" with a grapevine hoop, a 60-watt bulb, and an 18-inch skirt made of an old sheet. This was suspended from the ceiling and the babies lounged under it on chilly nights, venturing out from under for meals and recreation.

After a month my babies do not look like chipmunks. They look like lean little pheasants with short tails and variations in browns and reds with some snowy breasts here and there. There are also leg differences. Some have slim grey legs, some robust yellow ones. One has robust green legs, and I have my eye on that one for emerging maleness and a predilection for shoulders. So far this is the only one with a name: Green-shanks.

I find I have to be firm and not spend too much time in the chicken house. There is a life outside, after all, and I am a citizen of the world. But I have two plastic chairs in there and I seem to make any excuse to

drop by for a visit, also to lure my friends and relations out to see the chickens. We sit down and talk of many things, but if conversation ever lags, there is the constant wonder of chick social life and we can sit in comfortable silence, letting our affairs take a back seat.

I suppose the time is coming soon when my chickies will not be so glad to have me constantly popping in. They will

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Jean Germain and Edie Ross Art Exhibit

Monterey photographers Jean Germain and Edie Ross will be exhibiting in the third annual UNIFEM all women's juried art exhibition as a fundraiser to support the poorest women in the world.

Charted in 1983 UNIFEM/USA women's fund at the United Nations is dedicated to the economic and political empowerment of women in developing countries, to promoting human rights and the elimination of violence against women and girls.

The exhibition opens for public viewing on Sunday, August 7, at 11:30 a.m. and runs through August 18, Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m.-5 p.m., at the Welles Gallery, Lenox Library, Lenox. Admission is \$35 per person, which includes a gala brunch and silent auction. All proceeds benefit UNIFEM. Reservations required: call 413-298-4874.

want their privacy, as individuals and as a species just like my teenaged children. I hope I will be strong enough to give it to them, to step back and say, "You have your life, I have mine. All I ask is that you let me sort my compost and bring out the chicken bucket every day. I can handle my human life okay if I can just do the chicken bucket thing, please." I won't even mention about the husband's shoulder. I'm just open to it if it happens.

— Bonner J. McAllester



How To Grow More Weeds in Lake Garfield.

If you live on or around Lake Garfield, here are some tips on how to grow more weeds, taller weeds, and thicker weeds. As with plants on land, fertilizer is the essential ingredient. A lot of us are already doing a great job of providing weeds with an abundance of fertilizer. We dump it on our lawns on or near the lake. One of those Monterey rainstorms comes along and washes that fertilizer into the lake. Voila! Weeds enjoy a feeding frenzy. Time-released fertilizers, while environmentally friendlier, are less popular with weeds as they don't like hanging around waiting for their meals.

Another wonderful weed feeder waits in our cabinets at this very moment. It's phosphates, found in almost all laundry detergents and dishwashing powders. They go down the drain, into your septic and before long seep into the lake. Weeds on phosphates bulk up like athletes on steroids. On the other hand, phosphate-free detergents not only cost a few pennies more, they do nothing to enhance weed growth.

Here's our last tip for nurturing more weeds. Never ever clean out your septic tank. Those who tell you to clean your tank every three or four years know that a clean septic tank lets far less weed nourishment seep into the lake.

Simply follow these tips and we can be sure of more weeds and healthier weeds in Lake Garfield.

— Hy Rosen, Friends of Lake Garfield

Planning Board Seeks Member for Open Seat

The Monterey Planning Board is seeking interested parties to apply for an open seat on the board. The Planning Board is a seven-member board that meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays, at 7 p.m. The board reviews surveys of land division in the town, reviews and submits opinions to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding special permit applications and applications for a variance, and brings proposals before the town for amendments to the Zoning Bylaws.

Currently the Planning Board has received formal notification of interest from two individuals, and a third has recently visited during one of our meetings. However, the Select Board has encouraged the Planning Board to cast a wider net in hopes of involving some new people in town government. To this end the Planning Board and the Select Board will be interviewing interested parties during the August 11, 2005, meeting of the Planning Board. Please call Maggie Leonard at 528-1170 to be put on the agenda.

Garden Tours August 13th

Planning to go to LakeFest 2005 on Saturday, August 13th? Great! Begin the day with a visit to the Bidwell House Museum for a free tour of the award winning Colonial Vegetable Garden. Also, on Art School Road, the Garden Conservancy will sponsor Open Garden Days at Roberts Woods Farm; admission is \$5.00, to go toward preservation projects.

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Two Montereyans Join the March

Like other typical summer tourists, John and I were happily going from Neolithic burial sites to castle ruins, from woolen mills to Irish pubs, hoping to absorb as much of Ireland and Scotland as we could in the two weeks we had allotted ourselves. The weather was being most gracious to us. Each evening, we'd arrive exhausted from the many kilometers we had driven, so we just weren't keeping up with the news.

A midnight decision by John to scrap our previous plans and reroute us into Edinburgh, Scotland for our last three nights abroad met no resistance from me, so ... off we went.

What a spectacular first sighting—that eleventh-century castle precariously placed at the pinnacle of a lava plug, with the narrow store streets of a medieval city leading sharply downhill in multiple directions. It was truly magical.

Our first day there we noticed a flurry of activity going on around us. The G8 was about to meet forty miles north of Edinburgh in less than a week! Hundreds of thousands of social activists were expected to arrive in this capital city to demonstrate on July 2nd under the theme *Make Poverty History*.

Shopkeepers, hoteliers and restaurateurs we were meeting exhibited a mixture of excitement and apprehension as they simultaneously battened down



Eileen Lawlor and John MacDonald at Edinburgh Castle.

hatches while adding on extra staff to try to accommodate the huge crowds that were anticipated. Edinburgh, even with its famous arts festival, had never hosted anything like this before.

John and I quickly learned more about the G8's agenda, and why this particular meeting seemed so pivotal to so many. Slowly we also began to understand why it was that so many people from Europe, Africa, and elsewhere were willing to suspend their own busy lives, undertake the journey to Edinburgh, and converse (literally under our hotel window) to personally register their concerns and hopes for a new direction in global policy. There was palpable urgency in the energies of the churches and other groups hosting discussions or leading aspects of the events surrounding

the march. John and I watched, listened, and read as much as we could.

We both admired and appreciated how the Scottish police and other security forces were working *with* the march organizers, to ensure the rights of people to voice concerns and have a visible presence near the G8—assuming the event would unfold peacefully.

The morning "of," we were both up early and dressed in our white tee shirts (a request of the organizers), and by 10 a.m. we had made our way up onto Castle Rock and were positioned along the metal fencing that marked the parade route.

The march began in a meadow down below to our right. At first all we could see was a tiny bulging sea of white oozing towards us. The white surge continued until

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the first demonstrators crested a small hill and we could see them clearly. Eight to ten abreast, holding placards that read "Make Poverty History," "Justice for the Third World," "Fair Trade, Not Free Trade," "More Aid," "Drop the Debt," etc., they streamed past us. Families with infants in strollers, fathers with kids on their shoulders, dogs and their owners, elderly in wheel chairs—they kept on pouring by.

Homemade banners let us know that there were schoolteachers and trade unions who wanted fair trade for poorer countries. Civic organizations and church groups with their clergy wanted the "powerful 8" to begin to make choices that would truly address hunger and poverty for Africans and others. "Bread Not Bombs," their signs read. Some marchers chanted while other groups whistled or drummed to accentuate their collective presence. Many teens and school-aged children holding signs marched by us—and almost everyone was wearing something white.

Every so often the plaintive, soulful sounds of a lone bagpipe would be heard above the constant current of human voices. So many and kinds of voices—all trying to articulate the single belief that the time to act is NOW! That if we wait any longer the trend in climate changes we are noticing will be irreversible. If we wait any longer, death from starvation and/or preventable diseases will have wiped out whole populations. And if we wait any longer the wealthiest industrialized nations, with their quest for profit and control of natural resources, will have created a world so polarized with fear, anger, and hatred that we will all have

to live inside armed camps, fearing for our safety and survival.

The sea of white kept on flowing by us. Suddenly, when I spied a "Quakers for Peace and Justice" sign (and though neither of us had been motivated to protest march since the 60s), John and I slid between the barricades and joined the march.

In those three hours, over 250,000 people encircled Castle Rock in white. And when the signal flair went up, everyone fell silent. This silence was pin-drop silent, deeper than speech, and much more articulate. We were bearing witness to the possibility that consciousness can be raised and that heartfelt actions by masses of ordinary people hold extraordinary potential for social change.

John and I were standing in the quiet, shoulder to shoulder, with people from all over the world—of different ages, languages, races, nationalities, and religions. Yet we were all standing FOR something—something very powerful and fundamental to our natures: fairness and respect for all. We were standing for the human right: to eat; to work and be rewarded fairly for our efforts; to go to sleep and raise our children in safety; to breathe fresh air and drink clean water. In short, we were standing up for the right to live in peace as part of the intended whole of God's creation.

John and I joined the march that day ... will you?

— Eileen Lawlor

(G8 members: US, UK, Japan, Germany, France, Russia, Italy, Canada)

Double String Duo Plus Chad McLaughlin at Hamilton Grove, New Boston, Aug. 27

Renaissance, Baroque, classical music and jazz, as played on the twelve-string guitar and five-string double bass—the Double String Duo is anything but ordinary. Their performances have wowed audiences in the tri-state area. On August 27 at 8 p.m. the double String Duo will perform a benefit concert here in the Berkshires at the American Legion Hamilton Grove in New Boston, with special guest performer jazz and fusion guitar virtuoso Chad McLaughlin. This concert will benefit the Sandisfield Historical Society's building fund.

Double String Duo members Jason Kessler and Rick Eckberg have pioneered the use of their unusual instruments to bring a new sound and style to contemporary and traditionally played repertoire from jazz to classical and fusion. Both Kessler and Eckberg have performed at major jazz festivals. One of today's premiere jazz and fusion guitar virtuosos, guest performer guitarist and composer Chad McLaughlin has played with band members of many of today's most popular groups, including Eric Clapton and Bruce Springsteen. His mastery of the "sweep pick" technique allows him to bring extraordinary brilliance to the already extraordinary Double String Duo.

Tickets are \$10.00. Call 258-4520 or 258-2898 for further information or to make a reservation.



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Peter S. Vallianos Attorney at Law 528-0055

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“Scenic Mountain Act” Fails to Protect One of Monterey’s Last “Wildly Scenic” Views.

On a recent hike to the awesome summit of Hunger Mountain, my family was shocked to find an old favorite view sadly disappearing. It appears to us that members of the Conservation Commission did not view a building lot and surrounding environs completely prior to permitting construction of a new, large residence. This new structure is being placed upon a ridgetop, where it now obstructs the scenic view toward Livermore Peak, other portions of Beartown State Forest, and the Catskill Mountains from the outlook on Hunger Mountain.

Once a panoramic vista stretching from Haystack Mountain to the south in Connecticut, past Mount Everett in the southwestern corner of Massachusetts, over the Catskill Mountains of New York and northerly to our own Mt. Wilcox, this view from Hunger Mountain was virtually unbroken by signs of human habitation. It was the kind of “wildly”

scenic vista that I believe most Monterey residents thought that they had protected for future generations with passage of the Scenic Mountain Act. But on our last hike the first thing we saw was this immense, close, scar on the landscape: perfectly framed by East Mountain to the south and Livermore Peak to the north and obscuring the once clear view of the Catskill Mountains. To add insult to injury, it appears that this house could easily have been sited within the same parcel without disturbance of the scenic qualities of the Hunger Mountain Forest by tucking it just below or southwest of the ridgetop.

Since we moved to Monterey, my family has invited many friends and visitors to our town to enjoy the inspiring view from Hunger Mountain. We wish

Hartford Brass Quintet Comes To Sandisfield

On Saturday, August 6, at 8 p.m., the Sandisfield Arts Center welcomes the Hartford Brass Quintet, featuring some of the finest and most experienced brass players in Connecticut. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Reservations may be phoned in at 413 258-4100 or e-mailed to Sotis@starband.net.

to extend an open invitation now to any and all residents or visitors to town—and especially to those who must administer the Scenic Mountain Act—to join us for a hike on Hunger Mountain before more of the best view in Monterey is destroyed. We would also like to know how this apparent mistake in permitting under the Act might yet be ameliorated (by plantings?) to conceal some or all of the building from this once most awesome overlook. Anyone interested in a guided walk to the area described may call Bob Carlson at 413-528-5414.

— Bob Carlson

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Sun, 8:00–noon



Spring Plantings

Monterey retains the natural beauty of a small Berkshire country town, and our visual enjoyment is enhanced by the planting of new trees. Recently, in your travels you may have seen Roger Tryon with a handful of helpers from Gould Farm planting saplings along the Route 23 flats, then closer to town center along the berm, and in Green Park, as well as on

Land Trust property opposite the corner of Main and New Marlboro Roads.

Each new tree came with bare roots, avoiding the hassle of handling heavy cumbersome balls of earth covered in burlap or poly. However each root about an inch or more in diameter has been previously treated with a protective coating of hydrogel to preserve moisture. With the help of Gould Farm volunteers Bob Rausch, Lucille Sider, Jim Callaway, and

others, each root is carefully covered with rich soil from the back of Roger's truck, then watered, and the trunk is staked firmly in place.

The species planted may sound like exotic names, but they were chosen for each location by considering the combination of sunlight, rainfall, soil acidity, and drainage. All are clearly marked with red tags and labels.

2 Sargent Cherry

1 Redmond American Linden

2 Eastern Redbud*1 Autumn Gold Ginkgo

2 Mountain Ash*2 Japanese Tree Lilac

1 Blood Good London Plane

1 Little Leaf Linden

2 Ulmus Accolade

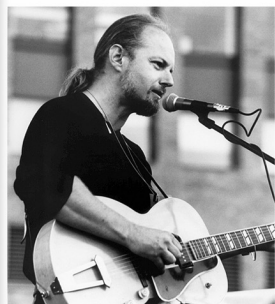
According to Roger, the quality of trees planted and maintained along our roadsides and in our parks is a testimony to the excellent work of the Highway Department, as well as the cooperation of the Park Commission. Planting these trees is like investing in a time capsule for the future. Roots extend down and out into the earth, while branches reach out skyward. After summer turns into autumn, followed by winter and another spring, an inner rings will be added to the trunk, measuring the growths of the seasonal circle.

Some might remember in the future that these were started in the year 2005, while the clock was ticking in our travel through the days of our lives, as we watch the scenic roadside moving past before our eyes.

— George Emmons

The Sandisfield Arts Center *presents:*

Garnet Rogers



Sat., September 3
8pm - Admission: \$18.

"Garnet Rogers may be the greatest male interpreter and vocalist performing in the contemporary folk scene... a first rate writer...musical integrity and powerful performance..." - Sing Out

Reservations Strongly Recommended!

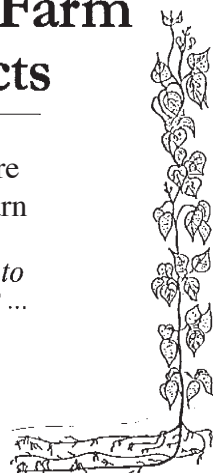
Call 413-258-4100 or www.sandisfieldartscenter.org
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Thanks for the Memories

To the Editor:

The many tributes I received upon my retirement as librarian are gratefully and humbly acknowledged. I was overwhelmed by the number of people who were at my reception and the many cards, notes, and gifts that I received. The *Monterey News* coverage was wonderful. I wish I could thank you all individually. Please know that your kindnesses invoked many memories for me. It has been a privilege for me to know you all for so many years. And I miss seeing you, but I am enjoying retirement! I hope that you will continue to use the Monterey Library, with its wealth of free information and enjoyment.

— Anne Marie Makuc



Here's to Fran and Dean

To The Editor:

I very much enjoyed reading Peter Amidon's tribute to his parents in the June issue. I've been a second-home owner in Monterey for many years. Fran and Dean, from the start, always extended a hand of friendship and welcome. Whether it was the Knox Trail Run, LakeFest, Fireman's Ball, or advice about bears, Fran and Dean always made us feel like veteran Montereyans. No matter the venue, they are always warm and pleasant, not to mention so handsome and elegant. By the way, not taking in the birdfeeders when Dean advised brought another visit from my friendly bear.

— Ed Salsitz



Contributors

We thank these readers for their recent contributions to the *Monterey News*:

Dorothy Jordan
Don and Erica Stern
Dr. & Mrs. Gene Bodian
Mr. & Mrs. Curtis Paine
Lillie Barnett & Ida Weitz
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Leonard and Toby Friedman
Barbara Haver
Dan and Georgianna Eschen
Steve and Sally Pullen
Gail and Stan Bulua
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Tours of Searsburg Wind Power Facility

The public is invited to attend a renewable energy tour of the Green Mountain Power Corporation's wind facility in nearby southern Vermont. Tours are offered on Thursday, August 25, and Saturday, September 24, at 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., and 1:00 p.m. On Friday, October 7, tours will be held at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Space is limited to 20 individuals per tour. Reservations are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis by contacting the Center for Ecological Technology (CET) at 413-445-4556, ext. 14, or amyj@cetonline.org. Directions to the site will be provided or can be found at www.cetonline.org/Events/events.htm#Wind. The tours are sponsored by the Berkshire Renewable Energy Collaborative.

The wind facility located on Searsburg Mountain was one of the first commercial scale wind power facilities constructed in the Northeast. Since 1997, eleven 550-kilowatt wind turbines have been producing electricity. The guided tour will cover topics ranging from selecting the site, public acceptance, how the technology works, wildlife protection, and the potential for wind power in this region.

Calendar

Every Monday (exc. holidays): Select Board meeting, 8:30 a.m.–noon, Town Offices.

Every Saturday through September: Lake Garfield Torah Group meets. For information call 528-3193 or 567-8171.

Every Thursday in August: Music night at the General Store. Various artists. Starts at 7 p.m. See p. 9.

Saturday, August 6: The Hartford Brass Quintet plays at Sandisfield Arts Center at 8 p.m. Admission \$15. See p. 20.

Thursday, August 11: Free blood pressure clinic, 2:30–3:30 p.m., Town Offices, administered by Visiting Nurses Assoc.

Saturday, August 13:

LakeFest: Many activities: music, potluck, fireworks and more, from 9:30 a.m. on. See p. 6 for event calendar.

Book signing for local artist Leonard Weber at the General Store, 3–6 p.m. See p. 9.

Friday, August 19: Full Moon

Saturday, August 20:

Farm Day at Bidwell House Museum. Special presentations. Free. See p. 8.

Monterey Historical Society sponsoring a walk led by Bob Rausch at the Fish Hatchery at 1 p.m. See p. 8.

The Observer June 26–July 25

High temp. (6/27)..... 90°
Low temp. (7/3) 49°
Avg. high temp. 79°
Avg. low temp. 59.8°
Avg. temp. 69.4°
Total rainfall..... 3.04 in.
Precipitation occurred on 14 days.

Saturday, August 27:

Friends of Lake Garfield meeting at the Firehouse at 9:30 a.m.

Bidwell House Museum presents "What Was Cooking at the Bidwell House," 11 a.m. Admission \$15. See p. 5.

Square and contra dancing, 8:30–11:30 p.m., Sheffield Grange, Rt. 7, Sheffield. Music by Mountain Laurel. Caller Melanie Axel-Lute. All dances are taught; beginners and children are welcome. Adults \$6, children \$3. Information 528-9385.

Double String Duo to perform a benefit concert for Sandisfield Historical Society at American Legion Hamilton Grove in New Boston, 8 p.m. Tickets \$10. See p. 19.

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Contributions from local artists this month:

*Maureen Banner, pp. 8, 11; George Emmons, p. 21;
Bonner McAllester, p. 16; Glynis Oliver, pp. 6, 14, 22.*

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